

Message Text

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72

ACTION COA-02

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1910

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CA, UR

SUBJECT:NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES: USSR TRAWLER VIOLATIONS

REF: OTTAWA 2332

1. EMBASSY LEARNED TODAY THROUGH ENVIRONMENT CANADA NEWS RELEASE OF OCTOBER 5 THAT FISHERIES MINISTER DAVIS REQUESTED SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT THAT SOVIET VESSELS SHOULD CEASE HERRING FISHING IN GEORGES BANK AREA IMMEDIATELY. DAVIS SAID USSR HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED (JULY 20) THAT ITS FLEET HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CASE SUCH FISHING BECAUSE IT HAD TAKEN ITS AGREED ICNAF QUOTA OF 48,200 TONS.

2. DESPITE QUOTA FULFILLMENT, SOVIET VESSEL FOUND FISHING ON SEPT 5 AND SIX MORE VESSELS APPREHENDED BETWEEN SEPT 20 AND 25. ACCORDING TO DAVIS, "SOME OF THE SOVIET SKIPPERS INVOLVED IN THESE INCIDENTS ADMITTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY THEIR SUPERIORS THAT THE SOVIET QUOTA HAD BEEN REACHED, AND THAT THE REALIZED THEY WERE FISHING ILLEGALLY."

3. DAVIS CONTINUED, "ON SEPT 27, AS SOON AS DETAILS

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OF THE OCCURRENCES WERE CONFIRMED, THE SOVIET AGOVERNMENT AND

THE SOVIET VICE-MINISTER OF FISHERIES WERE INFORMED THROUGH OUR MOSCOW EMBASSY, BOTH OF THE FACTS AND THE SERIOUS VIEW THAT CANADA TOOK OF THEM. IN ADDITION, A MESSAGE WAS SENT TO THE SOVIET ATLANTIC FLEET COMMANDER GIVING HIM THE DETAILS AND REQUESTING HIM TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO BRING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO A HALT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I MAINTAINED THAT THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF RUSSIAN WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH THE ICNAF REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD SATISFY ME WOULD BE FOR THE SOVIET VESSELS TO CEASE FISHING HERRING IMMEDIATELY. AN EARLY MEETING WITH THE FLEET COMMANDER WAS ALSO ASKED FOR. ON OCTOBER 3 ANOTHER SOVIET VESSEL WAS BOARDED ON GEORGES BANK AND FOUND TO HAVE 20 TONS OF HERRING ON DECK. ANOTHER FIVE SOVIET VESSELS WERE IN THE AREA. TWO OF THESE EVADED BOARDING AND INSPECTION BY TAKING OFF IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION BUT THEY WERE OBSERVED TO HAVE HERRING IN THEIR NETS AS THEY WERE BEING HURRIEDLY HAULED ABOARD. IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT REPRESENTATIONS THROUGH NORMAL ICNAF-AGREED CHANNELS WERE NOT HAVING THE DESIRED EFFECT, AND I WAS OBLIGED TO HAVE THE MATTER TAKEN UP WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. I HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT ACTION TO SECURE AND PRESERVE THE FISH RESOURCES SUPPORTING CANADA'S FISHING INDUSTRY IS NECESSARY NOW, EVEN BEFORE THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAS HAD ITS EFFECT. ICNAF HAS PLAYED AND IS CAPABLE OF PLAYING, AN IMPORTANT ROLE, BUT ONLY IF THE MEASURES AGREED TO AT ICNAF ARE ADHERED TO AND, JUST AS IMPORTANT, ARE SEEN TO BE COMPLIED WITH. I HAVE TAKEN ACTION MYSELF THIS YEAR TO ENSURE THAT CANADA FULFILLS HER ICNAF OBLIGATIONS BY CLOSING HERRING FISHERIES IN THE GULF OF MAINE AND IN THE BAY OF FUNDY WHEN OUR QUOTAS WERE REACHED. I FIND IT INTOLERABLE THAT CANADIAN FISHERMEN HAVE TO STOP FISHING WHILE INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN VESSELS OR GROUPS OF VESSELS DELIBERATELY VIOLATE AGREEMENTS MADE BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS AT ICNAF. I AM DETERMINED THAT THERE WILL BE NO DOUBLE STANDARDS. CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AN ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM IN ICNAF THAT WILL WORK EFFECTIVELY AND QUICKLY."

4. MINISTER DAVIS' NEWS RELEASE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT SURVEILLANCE OF THE GEORGES BANK AREA AND BOARDING AND INSPECTION BY CANADIAN PATROL VESSELS IS CONTINUING
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AND WILL BE INTENSIFIED.
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